

THE FACTS: ALCOHOL AND DRIVING IN MICHIGAN

Alcohol

Drinking and driving remains a very serious issue in the nation, killing more than 17,000 people annually.

Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)

- Law enforcement officers arrested 57,789 people in 2002 for alcohol-related driving offenses (less than 1% of Michigan drivers).

Source: Michigan State Police, Criminal Justice Information Center

- In 2002, 57,542 people were convicted of an alcohol-related driving offense.

Source: 2002 Drunk Driving Audit

- In 2002, 463 people died in alcohol and/or drug involved traffic crashes.

Source: Michigan State Police Criminal Justice Information Center

- Crashes involving drinking tend to be more serious than non-drinking crashes. The percentage of fatalities is eight times higher than in all crashes and the more serious injury levels are almost four times higher.

Source: University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute

- Had-been-drinking injury crashes peak on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and in the hours between 9 p.m. and 3 a.m.

Source: Michigan State Police, Criminal Justice Information Center

- A fatality in a crash is nine times more likely when one of the crash-involved operators is reported as “had been drinking.”

Source: University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute

Repeat Offenders

A 2002 study of the state’s repeat offender laws conducted by the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute (UMTRI) indicates:

- Crashes involving repeat offenders with multiple alcohol convictions have decreased 39 percent since the laws were enacted.
- The crash rate for drivers with two or more alcohol-related convictions decreased 39 percent, resulting in a 40 percent decrease in injuries.
- The crash rate for drivers under suspension or revocation decreased 30 percent, resulting in a 37 percent decrease in injury rates and a 13 percent decrease in fatalities.
- The number of drivers with two or more alcohol-related convictions dropped 5 percent, while the number of drivers with three or more alcohol-related convictions dropped 18 percent.

Michigan Drivers

- There are 7,142,723 drivers in Michigan.
- There are 1,202,301 male drivers 21 to 34 years of age.

Source: Michigan Department of State 04/05/03 DR/9235 Report

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Crime	Persons Arrested (2002)	Convictions (2002)
Operating Under Influence of Liquor (OUIL)	55,227	26,330
Operating While Impaired (OWI)	868	28,770*
OUIL Causing Death – Crash	47	58
OUIL Causing Injury - Crash	39	115
Under Age 21 With Alcohol .02 BAC or Over	1,582	1,844
Child Endangerment	0	419
CDL Driver With Alcohol .04 BAC or Over	26	6
Total	57,789	57,542
Total Males	46,076	
Total Females	11,713	

**There are a significant number of plea agreements in the courts from .10 BAC to .08 BAC Impaired offense.*

Michigan's Bodily Alcohol Content (BAC) History

- Michigan's drunk driving law was established by PA 149 of 1960, with a two-tier system starting at .05 BAC and .15 high BAC.
- This law was then amended by PA 253 of 1967 that established a three-tier drunk driving system .05 BAC, .10 BAC and .15 high BAC.
- The three-tier system was amended by PA 154 of 1971 to a two-tier drunk driving system of .08 BAC and .10 BAC.

New .08 BAC Law

- In October 2000, as part of the FY 2001 U.S. Department of Transportation Appropriations Act, Congress passed, and the President signed into law, a provision making .08 BAC the national standard for driving while intoxicated. Michigan was only one of seven states with an existing .08 BAC crime before the 2000 Federal mandate, though it was not the primary drunk driving offense.
- Public Act 61 of 2003, effective September 30, 2003, establishes Michigan's .08 BAC drunk driving law.
- Why lower the limit to .08 BAC? To save lives!